



March 16th, 2026

Honorable House Committee on Health and Human Services

RE: Testimony SUPPORTING HB 7624

Dear Chair and Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing to express my support for **HB 7624**, which would increase the frequency of inspections of assisted living facilities.

As the State Long Term Care Ombudsman, my office advocates for residents of long term care settings and works to ensure their rights, dignity, and quality of life are protected. Through our work responding to resident concerns and complaints, we regularly see how important timely oversight is in identifying and addressing issues that affect residents.

This is particularly important for residents living with dementia or other cognitive impairments. Many residents in assisted living settings may not be able to clearly communicate concerns or advocate for themselves if problems arise. Some residents also do not have family members or other advocates who are regularly involved in their care. In these situations, concerns related to care, safety, or quality of life may go unrecognized for extended periods of time.

More frequent inspections by the state's regulatory agency would provide an additional safeguard for these vulnerable residents. Increased oversight helps identify potential concerns sooner and supports accountability in ensuring that assisted living facilities are meeting required standards of care.

For residents who cannot advocate for themselves, strong and consistent oversight plays a critical role in protecting their well-being. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support **HB 7624**.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to the health and safety of Rhode Island's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

Lori Light
Rhode Island State Long Term Care Ombudsman

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LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN**

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